ACReS

Academic Career and Readiness Skills

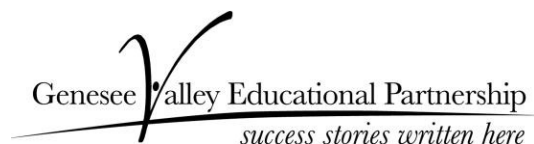## Reading for Fun and Understanding

Unit 3

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The News and You

Words to know:
✓ **media**
✓ **editor**
✓ **journalism**
✓ **fact versus opinion**
✓ **bias**
✓ **verify**
✓ **classifieds**

How do you find out about what is happening in your area? In your state? In the world? What kind of information interests you? Sports? Current events? Job offerings? Sales? Weather? Comics? News comes to you in many different ways. News reaches large numbers of people through television, newspapers, radio, and the Internet. These are called the *media*, or mass media. The media business is called journalism. It includes reporting, writing, editing, photographing, or broadcasting the news. The person in charge of this kind of work is an *editor*.

Which news source is better?

For a long time, the daily newspaper was the best way to get news. But that has changed. Now there are many ways to find out what is happening. Your choice depends on what you want to know.

Leading News Sources

- ✓ Internet
- ✓ social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs)
- ✓ mobile devices (cell phone, tablet)
- ✓ television
- ✓ radio
- ✓ newspapers (daily/weekly; local/regional/national)
- ✓ magazines

Top Scources for Local Topics

Top Scources for Local Topics	
Newspapers	• Top source for news on community events, crime, taxes, local government, arts and culture, social services, zoning, and development • Ties with Internet as top source for news on housing, schools, and jobs • Ties with TV as top source for local political news
Television	• Top source for weather and breaking news • Ties with radio as top source for traffic news • Ties with newspaper as top source for local political news
Internet	• Top source for information about restaurants and other local businesses • Ties with newspaper as top source for news about housing, schools, and jobs
Radio	• Ties with TV as top source for traffic news
Source: Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism and Internet & American Life Project in partnership with the Knight Foundation, January 12-25, 2011, Local Information Survey. N=2,251 adults age 18 or older. Conducted in English and Spanish and included 750 cell phone interviews.	

What do you notice?

Identify three interesting things you learned from this information.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

Fact or Opinion?

What is important is whether the news you get is true. Not everything you read or hear is true. Sometimes information is ***biased***. It favors one or the other side in an argument, situation, sport, etc. Good journalism is neutral or **un**biased. It deals in ***facts*** – things that are true. Still, there is also room for ***opinions*** to be expressed. An opinion is what a person thinks, or how he or she feels about something.

Examine the following statements. Identify them as fact or opinion by checking one box ☑. If you are unsure, place a question mark (?) between the two choices.

		FACT	OPINION
1.	Pelé is the greatest soccer player of all time.	☐	☐
2.	There are fifty states in the United States.	☐	☐
3.	Spanish is easier to learn than English.	☐	☐
4.	George Washington was the first president of the United States.	☐	☐
5.	Topeka is the state capitol of Kansas.	☐	☐
6.	Chevy trucks are better than Ford trucks.	☐	☐
7.	Education is the key to success.	☐	☐
8.	A healthy diet includes fruits and vegetables.	☐	☐
9.	Products made in the U.S. are better quality.	☐	☐
10.	Global warming is caused by too many cars.	☐	☐

Was that hard?

Was there a statement or two where you had trouble choosing? Select one statement and explain on the next page why it was hard to decide.

I had trouble deciding about _____

because _____

_____

_____

Is it true?

When you are not sure if something is true or not, try to **verify** the information. This means to check to see if it is true. Do not believe everything you hear or read. It may be biased, an opinion, or totally false. Learning to tell the difference is important in becoming an informed person.

News Articles and Reports

Newspaper articles or radio and television reports tell about what is happening around town, in the state, the country, or the world. News articles or reports just tell the facts. They do not give an opinion.

Where do you get your news?

Consider what news topics are important to you. How do you get this information? Fill in this chart with the different kinds of news you look for. Tell where you get each kind of news – the **source**. Then decide whether that source is **reliable**. Can it be trusted? Can you **rely** on it to tell the truth? Does that source give you facts or opinions? Is it biased? Mark any boxes that relate to each kind of news. Place a Y for yes, N for no, or question mark (?) if you are not sure. The first two are filled in as an example, but you can change them if you want.

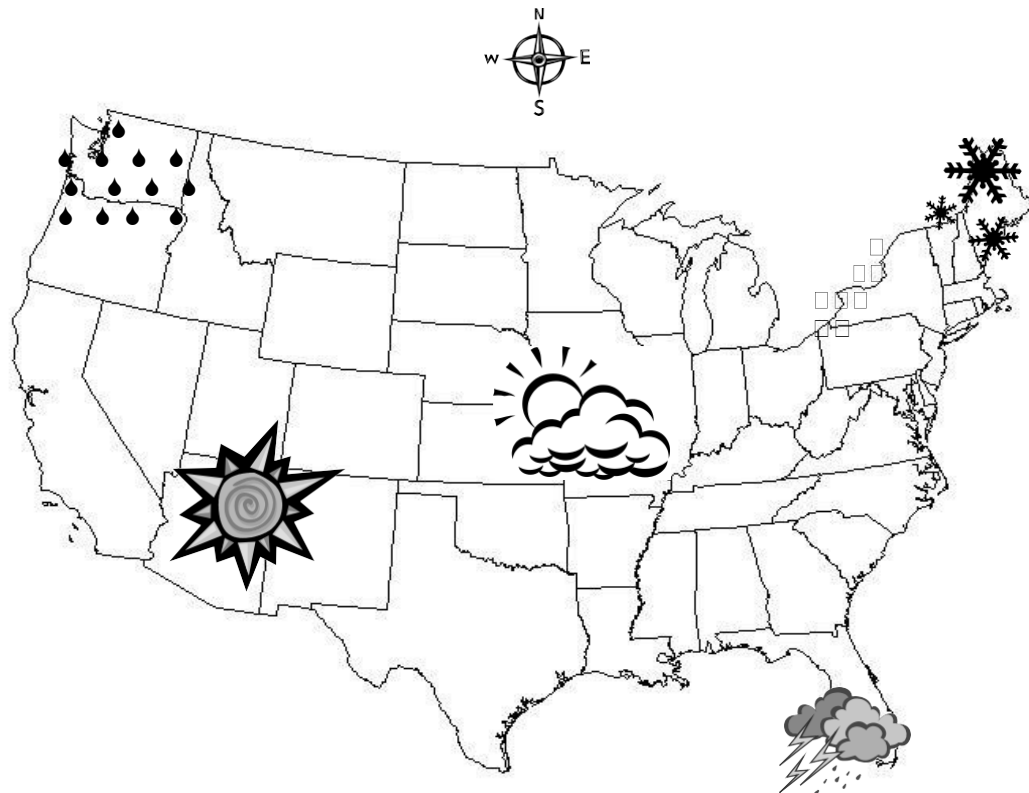Some topics you may want to add to the chart are:

- job openings
- new businesses
- current events
- crime
- government
- entertainment

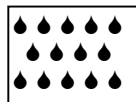| Topic	Source	Reliable	Fact	Opinion	Biased
Family	wife	Y	Y	Y	Y
Weather	radio (?)	?	Y	N	N
Sports					
Food prices					

How about the weather?

Most media give a weather forecast. This tells you what to expect that day and in the next few days. It may be a local forecast, and also tell what is happening around the country. Look at the map of the United States. Can you locate where you live? The key underneath the map tells what the different symbols mean. Answer the questions on the next page based on this forecast map.

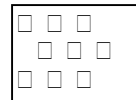**Partly Sunny**   **Rain**   **Thunderstorms**

Sunny   **Snow**   **Ice**

11. What is the forecast for the Northwest? _____

12. How many different types of weather will happen in the United States?

_____

13. Where will it snow? _____

Now look at the chart with the five-day forecast below and answer the questions.

14. Which day will be the hottest? What temperature is forecast?

_____

15. Which night will be the coolest? What temperature is forecast?

_____

16. Choose one day and tell the difference between the high and low temperatures

for that day. _____

5–Day Forecast

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
High	High	High	High	High
89°	86°	82°	80°	77°
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
72°	70°	68°	66°	65°

Classified Advertising

The Classified Ads in the newspaper are called that because they are grouped (classified) by topic sections. These notices are written by people who want to sell something or have a message printed in the newspaper or posted online. For a small fee, anyone can buy space in the *classifieds*.

Typical sections in the classifieds include:

- Help Wanted (job opportunities)
- Automobiles for Sale
- Real Estate (homes, apartments, farms/land, and businesses for rent or sale)
- Stuff (furniture, electronics, musical instruments, sporting goods, etc.)
- Sales, Auctions, and Shows
- Pets for Sale
- Lost and Found
- Personals (thank you notes, prayers, good wishes, tickets for sale, ways to meet people with common interests, etc.)

Classified Ad Abbreviations

Because the cost of classified ads is based on number of words and amount of space used, people use as few words as possible in their messages. Words are shortened and abbreviations are used. Words such as *a* and *the* are not used.

Example: Employment

FT	=	full time	yrs.	=	years
PT	=	part time	exp. pref.	=	experience preferred
OT	=	overtime	co.	=	company
cust.	=	customer	DL	=	driver's license
avail.	=	available	min.	=	minimum

Autos for Sale

4WD	=	four wheel drive	4 dr.	=	four doors
AC	=	air conditioning	PW, PL	=	power windows, locks
mpg	=	miles per gallon	OBO	=	or best offer
exc. cond.	=	excellent condition	fac. war.	=	factory warrantee

Real Estate

w/	=	with	2 BR	=	two bedrooms
2 ½ bath	=	two full bathrooms, plus one with a toilet and sink	hrdwd.	=	hardwood
W/D	=	washing machine and dryer	prkg.	=	parking
utilities	=	water, electricity, heat	sq. ft.	=	square feet

Here are some examples of ads that you might see. Can you figure out what they are saying?

HOTEL: Housekeepers. PT positions. Must be avail wknds. Exp. pref., but will train. Some OT.

What it really means is:

Hotel housekeepers are needed. These are part-time jobs. You must be available to work on weekends. We would prefer people who have done this kind of work before, but we can also teach you how to do it. You may have to work some overtime.

'88 Chevy ext cab PU, orig ownr, 2WD, 230K miles, $2K OBO.

What it really means is:

1988 Chevrolet, two-wheel drive, extended cab pickup truck is for sale by the original owner. It has 230,000 miles on it. The owner is asking for $2000, but will take the best offer he gets.

Now you try!

Write a brief ad for something you would like to sell, or have published in the classifieds.

_____

_____

_____

Let's review. Respond to these statements based on what you learned in this lesson.

17. Explain what a journalist does.

_____

18. List the different kinds of media that people go to for news.

_____

19. Tell what different kinds of topics are included in the classifieds.

_____

20. Describe the differences between fact, opinion, bias, and truth.

_____

_____

Notes:

End of Lesson 1